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SECRET

TDCS -314/07035-66

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DIST 6 JUNE 1966

COUNTRY WEST GERMANY

DOI 29 MAY 1966

SUBJECT FDP LEADER MISCHNICK'S COMMENTS ON HIS PARTY'S EASTERN  
CONTACTS

ACQ GERMANY, FRANKFURT (29 MAY 1966)

FIELD NO. EGN-2838

SOURCE A QUALIFIED AMERICAN OFFICIAL FROM WOLFGANG MISCHNICK,  
DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER OF THE FREE DEMOCRATIC PARTY (FDP).

1. FDP DEPUTY FLOOR LEADER WOLFGANG MISCHNICK DISCUSSED THE DIFFICULTIES IN INSURING SAFE CONDUCT FOR EAST GERMAN LEADERS IN THE PROJECTED SPEAKERS EXCHANGE WITH THE WEST GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY /SPD/. MISCHNICK SAID THAT HIS OWN PARTY'S LEADERS ARE EXERCISING EXTREME RESTRAINT IN THE MATTER. ON THE NATIONAL LEVEL, THEY ARE NOT TAKING A CATEGORICAL POSITION. THEY FEAR THAT IF THEY WERE TO GO ALL-OUT IN SUPPORT OF THE SPD STAND ON THIS ISSUE IT COULD ENDANGER THEIR POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT COALITION. ON THE LOCAL LEVEL, THEY ARE RESTRAINING REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WHICH ARE EAGER TO ESTABLISH BROAD CONTACTS WITH

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THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN THE EAST GERMAN LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY (LDPD).

2. THE LDPD HAS EVADED ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF A LETTER FROM THE FDP AFTER THE OPEN FORUM IN BAD HOMBURG AT THE END OF MARCH 1966. (FIELD COMMENT: FOR PREVIOUS COMMENTS FROM MISCHNICK ON THE OPEN FORUM WITH THE LDPD, SEE TDCS-314/05883-66, 9 MAY 1966.) IN VIEW OF THE LDPD'S INTRANSIGENCE, THE FDP IS CONSIDERING SENDING EMISSARIES TO LDPD HEADQUARTERS IN AN ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE LDPD TO PUBLISH THE LETTER IN ITS PARTY ORGAN. UNTIL THIS IS SETTLED, THE FDP LEADERS INTEND TO HOLD TIGHT REINS ON THE REGIONAL PARTY UNITS TO PREVENT WIDESPREAD UNCOORDINATED UNILATERAL CONTACTS WITH EAST ZONE FUNCTIONARIES.

3. FDP BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES RUDOLF OPITZ AND WOLFRAM DORN PLAN TO VISIT MOSCOW AFTER DE GAULLE'S TRIP. WHILE THEIR VISIT WILL BE A BUSINESS TRIP, THEY WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS IF THE POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE AT THAT TIME WARRANTS IT. IF MISCHNICK IS PRESSED AT THE

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